

Donna K. Coker
Professor of Law
University of Miami School of Law
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EDUCATION

Law School: Stanford Law School (J.D.), 1991
Graduate School: University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Master of Social Work–Social Work Administration focus), 1982
Undergraduate: Harding University (Bachelor of Social Work), 1978

Courses Taught: Criminal Law; Evidence; Domestic Violence and the Law; Domestic Violence Field Placement; Selected Readings on Gender, Race, Crime and the Criminal Justice System; Wrongful Convictions Workshop; Family Law.

Editorships: Editorial Board Member, *NEW CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW: AN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL*, University of California Press.

Co-editor with Jonathan Simon, Criminal Law section, *JOTWELL* (online journal).

Co-editor with Robert Weisberg, *CRIMINAL LAW STORIES* (forthcoming 2011).

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Fall, 2010 Visiting Professor of Law
Brooklyn Law School
Courses: Criminal Law; Domestic Violence and the Law

Spring, 2011 Visiting Professor of Law
University of Connecticut School of Law
Courses: Criminal Law; Domestic Violence seminar

- Fall 1995 – Present University of Miami School of Law
Tenured full professor since 2001
- Fall 2005 –
Spring 2009 Academic Associate Dean
Subject to policies set by the Faculty and the Dean, responsible for daily operation of academic program including assessment and selection of conferences and seminars; assessment of requests for faculty summer research grants; selection of student initiatives for funding; review of Dean of Students office decisions as needed; serve on all faculty committees; authorize expenditures of faculty funds; oversee law school departments including Information Technology, Library, Dean of Students, Public Interest, Registrar, LL.M. programs; determine with the assistance of the Registrar and faculty committees as appropriate, class scheduling and adjunct hiring and retainment; assist the Director of Faculty Development with programs to support faculty scholarship; represent the Law School as needed in dealings with the University administration, alumni, and fund raising; assist the Dean with student disciplinary issues.
- Spring 1995 Lecturer, Santa Clara University School of Law (Domestic Violence seminar)
- Fall 1993–Spring 1994 Lecturer, Stanford Law School (Domestic Violence seminar; Domestic Violence field placement course)
- Spring 1994 Resident Scholar, Stanford Law School

PUBLICATIONS

Yvonne Wanrow and the Story of Women's Self-Defense Law, in CRIMINAL LAW STORIES (Robert Weisberg and Donna Coker eds., forthcoming 2011).

Restorative Justice, Navajo Peacemaking and Domestic Violence, 10(1) THEORETICAL CRIMINOLOGY (Special Issue) 67 (Kathleen Daly, Kim Cook, and Julie Stubbs guest eds., 2006).

Race, Poverty, and the Crime Centered Response to Domestic Violence: A Comment on LINDA MILLS, INSULT TO INJURY: RETHINKING OUR RESPONSES TO INTIMATE ABUSE, 10(11) VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 1331 (2004).

Foreward: Addressing the Real World of Racial Injustice in the Criminal Justice System, 93 THE JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY 827 (2003). Reprinted in RACE AND RACES: CASES AND RESOURCES FOR A DIVERSE AMERICA (Juan F. Perea et al. eds., 2d ed. 2007).

Addressing Domestic Violence Through a Strategy of Economic Rights, 24 (3) WOMEN'S RIGHTS LAW REPORTER 187 (2003) published remarks, Trafficking in Women symposium, Rutgers University School of Law.

Violence Against Women, WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE: EMPLOYMENT, VIOLENCE AND POVERTY (2002), remarks published by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Crime Control and Feminist Law Reform in Domestic Violence Law: A Critical Review, 4 BUFFALO CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW 801 (2001). Reprinted in PROSECUTORS AND PROSECUTION (Lisa Frohmann ed. 2008); SOCIAL JUSTICE: PROFESSIONALS, COMMUNITIES, AND LAW (Martha R. Mahoney, John O. Calmore and Stephanie M. Wildman eds., 2003).

Shifting Power for Battered Women: Law, Material Resources and Poor Women of Color, 33 U.C. DAVIS LAW REVIEW 1009 (2000). Reprinted in

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE MARGINS: READINGS ON RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND CULTURE (Natalie J. Sokoloff ed., 2005); DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW (Nancy K.D. Lemon ed., 3d ed. 2009).

Transformative Justice: Anti-Subordination Processes in Cases of Domestic Violence, in RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (Heather Strang and John Braithwaite eds., 2002). Reprinted in RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: CRITICAL CONCEPTS IN CRIMINOLOGY (Carolyn Hoyle ed., 2009).

Enhancing Autonomy for Battered Women: Lessons from Navajo Peacemaking, 47 U.C.L.A. LAW REV. 1 (1999). Reprinted in DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE LAW: THEORY AND PRACTICE (Elizabeth A. Schneider, et al. eds., 2d ed. 2008); FEMINIST LEGAL THEORY: AN ANTI-ESSENTIALIST READER (Nancy E. Dowd and Michelle S. Jacobs eds., 2000); CRITICAL RACE FEMINISM: A READER (Adrien Katherine Wing ed., 2d ed. 2003); DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW (Nancy K.D. Lemon ed., 3d ed. 2009).

Domestic Violence and Move Away Issues, in DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF CASES AND SOURCES (Nancy K. D. Lemon ed., 1996).

Heat of Passion and Wife Killing: Men Who Batter/Men Who Kill, 2 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REVIEW OF LAW AND WOMEN'S STUDIES 71 (1992). Reprinted in CRIMINAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS (Cynthia Lee and Angela Harris eds., 2d ed. 2009); GENDER AND LAW: THEORY, DOCTRINE, COMMENTARY (Katharine T. Bartlett and Deborah L. Rhode eds., 4th ed. 2006).

What Therapists See That Judges May Miss: A Unique Guide to Custody Decisions When Spouse Abuse is Charged, THE JUDGES JOURNAL 9 (Spring, 1988) (co-authored with Laura Crites).

PRESENTATIONS

The Story of Wanrow: The Reasonable Woman and the Law of Self-Defense, Criminal Justice Forum invited public lecture, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland, OH, forthcoming, April 2011.

Implementing Critique: Integrating Theory and Practice About Domestic Violence, Roundtable participant, Law and Society Association annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 2010.

The Current Economic Crisis and Our Response to Domestic Violence at the Thinking Outside the Box: New Challenges and New Approaches to Domestic Violence conference, JOURNAL OF LEGAL COMMENTARY, St. John's University School of Law, March 2009 (organized by Elaine Chiu).

Domestic Violence Victims at the Rights, Needs, Power: The Victim in Criminal Justice colloquia, Stanford Criminal Justice Center, Stanford Law School, January 2008 (organized by Robert Weisberg).

Feminism, Restorative Justice, and Violence Against Women roundtable, Law and Society Association International Meeting, Berlin, Germany, July 2007 (organized by James Ptacek).

The Story of Wanrow: The 'Reasonable Man' and the Law of Self-Defense, Law and Society Association International Meeting, Berlin, Germany, July 2007.

Moving the Agenda Beyond the Debate on Mandatory Criminal Interventions for the Colloquia—Alternatives to Mass Incarceration: Promises and Challenges, REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE, New York University School of Law, February 2007.

Restorative Justice in Domestic Violence Cases for The Institute of Evidence-Based and Best Practices: Offender Treatment, Victim Services Training conference, Miami, Florida, June 2006.

The Case Against Mandatory Criminal Intervention in Domestic Violence Cases roundtable (organizer) for the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 2005.

Mandatory Arrest, No Drop Prosecution, and the Battered Women's Movement for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Clearinghouse Lawyer Training, June 2004.

Intimate Violence Interventions: Impact on Poor and Marginalized Women for the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2003.

Addressing Domestic Violence Through A Strategy of Economic Rights at the Trafficking in Women symposium, Women's Rights Law Reporter, Rutgers University School of Law, April 2003.

Expert Testimony and Amici Representation in Support of Battered Women Charged with Criminal Offending, invited lecture for the Commemoration of the *Gideon v. Wainwright* Decision by the Ninth Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office, March 2003.

Domestic Violence and Criminal Law Reform at the Women's Rights in Theory and Practice conference, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., May 2002 (organized by Philippa Strum, Director, U.S. Studies).

Documenting Battered Women's Material Resource Needs: Developing Participatory Research at Confronting Domestic Violence and Achieving Gender Equality: Evaluating BATTERED WOMEN AND FEMINIST LAWMAKING by Elizabeth Schneider, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF GENDER, SOCIAL POLICY AND THE LAW, American University School of Law, April 2002.

Commentary, *Effective Service Provision for Domestic Violence Victims on Welfare*, at the Trapped by Poverty, Trapped by Abuse conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 2001.

Domestic Violence and Poverty lecture for Poverty Law class, University of Miami School of Law, Wes Daniels, Instructor, April 2001.

Domestic Violence Law Reform: the Impact of a Crime Focus at the Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity, Crime and Consequence: The Impact of Criminalization conference, University of North Carolina School of Law, March 2001.

Risks and Rewards of Use of Restorative Justice Processes in Cases of Domestic Violence, testimony before the Florida Governor's Task Force on Sexual and Domestic Violence in conjunction with Professor Gordon Bazemore, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, August 2000.

Using Restorative Justice in Situations of Family Violence at the Real Justice Conference, Toronto, Canada, August 2000 (panel organized by Gale Burford).

Feminist and Anti-Racist Practice in Restorative Justice Processes at the Restorative Justice and Family Violence: New Ideas and Learning from the Past conference, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, July 2000 (organized by John Braithwaite and Heather Strang).

Mandatory Arrest in Domestic Violence Cases roundtable at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida, May 2000 (organized by Peter Margulies).

Navajo Peacemaking and Enhancing Battered Women's Autonomy at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Violence Against Women: Alternatives to Punishment panel (chair and presenter), Miami Beach, Florida, May 2000.

Enhancing Autonomy for Battered Women: Navajo Peacemaking and Domestic Violence Cases at the annual LatCrit Conference, Stanford Sierra Club, California, April 1999.

Moving the Family Law Classroom to Act, small group discussant at the Society of American Law Teachers conference, Power, Pedagogy, and Praxis: Moving the Classroom to Action, Loyola School of Law, Los Angeles, California, October 1998.

Navajo Peacemaking and Domestic Violence Cases: Stories for Transformation at the Southeastern Association of American Law Schools annual meeting, San Marco Island, Florida, July 1998.

Panel Discussant, *Race, Nation and Identity: Indigenous Peoples and LatCrit Theory* at the LatCrit Symposium, Miami Beach, Florida, May 1998.

What Can Peacemaker Courts Teach Domestic Violence Justice Reform Efforts?, faculty colloquium, University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 1998.

Honoree speaker at the Women Who Make a Difference awards banquet, Miami Law Women, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, February 1998.

Navajo Nation Peacemaker Courts and Cases Involving Domestic Violence, guest lecturer for Alternative Dispute Resolution seminar, Florida State University College of Law, Jean Sternlight, Instructor, Tallahassee, Florida, September 1997.

Navajo Nation Peacemaker Courts and Cases Involving Domestic Violence at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, May 1997.

Prosecuting Domestic Homicides: When Batterers Kill at the Law and Society Association International Meeting, Glasgow, Scotland, July 1996.

Co-coordinator, Criminal Law working group, Society of American Law Teachers Teaching Conference on Diversity Issues, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 1994.

National Peer Exchange for Law Teachers Teaching Domestic Violence, George Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C., April 1994.

Battered Women's Syndrome Testimony and Self-Defense: An Overview and Critique, guest lecturer for Criminal Law class, Hastings Law School, Kate Bloch, Instructor, San Francisco, California, November 1993.

Teaching Berry: Gender Issues Related to Voluntary Manslaughter Doctrine at the Society of American Law Teachers Teaching Conference, Santa Clara, California, October 1993.

Heat of Passion and Wife Killing at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 1992.

How the Image of "Battered Women's Syndrome" Hinders Battered Women in Child Custody Fights: The Conflict Between a Woman's Presentation of Self in the Criminal Courtroom and Her Presentation in Family Court, guest lecturer in Family Law class, Stanford Law School, Carol Sanger, Instructor, Stanford, California, Fall 1991.

"Cultural Defense" and Moral Theory, guest lecturer in Women and Moral Theory class, Stanford University, Nel Noddings, Instructor, Stanford, California, Spring 1991.

The Relevance of Spouse Abuse to Child Custody Determinations, guest lecturer in Family Law class, Stanford Law School, Blanca Silvestrini, Instructor, Stanford, California, Fall 1989.

Selected Academic Service

Thesis Review Committee, University of Miami Department of Sociology, June 2009

ABA Limited Site Inspection team member, 2008

Chair, Law School Strategic Planning Committee, 2007-08

Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2004-05

Chair, Ad Hoc Public Interest Committee, 2003-04

Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Public Interest Committee, 2002-03

Faculty Advisor, Wrongful Conviction Student Organization, Fall 2002–Spring 2005

Associate Resident Master, University of Miami Eaton Residential College, Fall 2001–Spring 2006

Thesis Examiner, Griffith University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, September 2005

LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW, article reviewer

Consultation, Training, and Public Service

Webinar Interviewee, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, December 2008, virtual book club with battered women's advocates state-wide to discuss *Shifting Power for Battered Women* article.

Grant Selection Team member for the Miami Women's Fund (conducted interviews with applicants, site visits, and participated in selection for grants benefiting women and girls in Miami-Dade county), Fall 2005.

Consultant for ACTT (Advocate Center for Treatment and Training), 2002–2004. Developed and implemented survey of service providers in Miami-Dade county to determine nature of county-wide response to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The survey focused specifically on gathering information related to (1) links between access to material resources and access to services identified as “victim” services; (2) the availability of services for women of color, immigrant women, low-income women, and non-English speaking women; (3) the availability of advocates for battered women; (4) the diversity of staffing in programs for victims.

Trainer, Florida Department of Children and Families (subcontractor for ACTT), July 2004. Developed and implemented training for all Miami-Dade county Florida Department of Children and Families Protective Investigators (child abuse/neglect investigators) regarding practice in child abuse and neglect cases involving allegations of spousal abuse.

Attorney for *Amicus Curiae*, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund [renamed Legal Momentum] and Greenberg Traurig/Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Alliance for Battered Women, in support of Appellant/Defendant, Yaite Gonzalez-Valdes, *Gonzalez-Valdes v. State of Florida*, Spring 2003. Defendant was convicted of second-degree murder in the killing of her boyfriend. She testified that she killed in self-defense after the boyfriend threatened her life. In violation of *order in limine*, the prosecutor repeatedly attempted to elicit testimony suggesting that defendant was a prostitute. *Amici* argued that the trial court's failure to grant a mistrial was in error and presented extensive data on the affect of such sexist innuendos on jury decision making. The conviction was affirmed and the Florida Supreme Court denied *cert*.

Family Law Mediation and Domestic Violence for the Advanced Mediation Training, University of Miami School of Law, October 2002.

Identifying “Best Practices” for Services to Immigrant Battered Women, Immigration Through a Gender Lens conference, sponsored by the Miami Women's Fund, Coral Gables, Florida, Fall 2002.

Grant reviewer for the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice, providing evaluation and recommendation for the allocation of federal funds for domestic violence programs, 2001-03.

Board Member, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., 1979–1981.

Advisory Board Member, Greenberg Traurig/Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Alliance for Battered Women, provided training and assistance for federally funded attorneys who represented battered women and provided consultation on appellate civil cases, 1999-2002.

Representing Battered Women training for LEAP Project Attorneys, Greenberg, Traurig/Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Alliance for Battered Women, St. Thomas School of Law, Miami, Florida, October 2001

Expert testimony in federal sentencing hearing in the case of *United States v. Vernidean Cook Young*, U.S.D.C. Case No. 99-496-Cr.-Seitz (S.D. Fla.) regarding the coercive affects of battering on a defendant convicted of drug conspiracy, where the primary drug offender was her abusive husband, October 2001. The court granted Defendant's request for a significant downward departure in sentencing.

Attorney and Non-Attorney Advocates for Battered Women: Working Together, training for Clearinghouse Domestic Violence Lawyers, sponsored by the Greenberg Traurig/Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Alliance, December 1999.

Dealing with Custody and Visitation in Domestic Violence Cases, training for Clearinghouse Domestic Violence Lawyers, sponsored by Greenberg Traurig/Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Alliance, May 1999.

Consultation with ALI Reporter, Katharine Bartlett, regarding recommendations for ALI Restatement on Child Custody and Visitation as regards cases involving domestic violence, October 1998.

National Advisory Board member for the Dependency Court Domestic Violence Intervention Program, providing assistance with establishing project guidelines and protocols for evaluation, Spring 1997. The Program, a national demonstration project initiated by Judge Cindy Lederman, sought to identify and assist battered women whose children were the subject of dependency and neglect proceedings.

Co-consultant with Martha Mahoney for attorneys representing Mary Ward in motion and rehearing, hearing *en banc*, and to certify the question for Florida Supreme Court review regarding application of rebuttable presumption against custody to parent convicted of second degree felony involving domestic violence, *Ward v. Ward*, 1996 WL 491692 (Fla. App. 1 Dist. 1996), 1996.

Consultant with Lyn McGivern, Honolulu County prosecutor, in developing trial strategy for a domestic homicide trial based on analysis developed in *Heat of Passion and Wife Killing* article, 1995-96.

Harms Experienced by Child Witnesses to Spouse Abuse and Implications for Custody and Visitation Decisions at the Family Violence and The Courts: A Coordinated Community Response statewide conference, Los Angeles, California, September 1994.

Expert Analysis of Child Custody "Move Away" Legislation in Cases Involving Domestic Violence in California before the California state Senate Judiciary Committee, Sacramento, California, August 1994.

Attorney for *Amici Curiae*, Ad Hoc Committee of [seventeen] Law Professors Working on Domestic Violence and the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence in *Borman v. State Farm Fire & Casualty Co.*, 1994 WL 513819 (Mich.), 1994.

Non-Academic Experience

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| 1994 | LEGISLATION ANALYST
Legislation analysis for the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence, Legislative Committee, providing bill analysis, expert testimony before state legislature committees, and educating state legislators regarding domestic violence issues. |
| June 1993–
December 1994 | FAMILY LAW AND CRIMINAL APPELLATE PRACTICE
Assisted local attorney with representation of battered women in family law matters; assisted local criminal appellate attorney with state criminal appeal cases. |
| September 1991–
May 1993 | LITIGATION ASSOCIATE
Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe, Palo Alto, California

Practice areas included General Civil Litigation, Intellectual Property, and Insurance Regulation. |

Fall 1990-Spring 1991	<p>STUDENT COORDINATOR Domestic Violence Clinic, East Palo Alto Community Law Project</p> <p>Shared responsibility with other law students for training and supervision of law students in domestic violence restraining order clinic.</p>
Summer 1990	<p>SUMMER ASSOCIATE Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe, Palo Alto, California</p>
1986-1988	<p>COORDINATOR Maluhia 'O Wahine Family Violence Program, Waikiki Community Center, Honolulu, Hawaii</p> <p>Coordinator of battered women's program, supervising provision of support group, counseling, and advocacy services for over 150 women abuse victims annually; co-facilitated groups for men who batter; provided expert testimony in child custody determinations where spouse abuse was alleged.</p>
1984-1986	<p>CONSULTANT/TRAINER/FACILITATOR Trained attorneys, police, community advocates, medical professionals, mental health professionals, military personnel, clergy, and Military Family Abuse Shelter (MFAS) staff regarding domestic violence issues in Honolulu, Hawaii.</p> <p>Facilitated weekly women's support and education groups for MFAS and for Waikiki Community Center Family Violence Program; originated unique workshop through Windward Community College Continuing Education program for women in abusive relationships.</p>
1983-1984	<p>WOMEN'S COUNSELOR/ADVOCATE Advocates for Battered Women (shelter), Little Rock, Arkansas</p> <p>Provided individual and group counseling, crisis phone counseling and system advocacy for battered women.</p>
1982-1983	<p>COMMUNITY ORGANIZER Community Organizer for the Arkansas Committee for Non-Intervention in Central America, engaged in political organizing, lobbying, and public education; worked with the local and national sanctuary movement.</p>
Fall 1981	<p>EDUCATOR GED Instructor in class for displaced textile workers sponsored by the ILGWU utilizing a liberatory education model.</p>
Fall 1981-Spring 1982	<p>COMMUNITY EDUCATOR Grassroots Women's Project, working in conjunction with ACORN and Arkansas Women's Project (formerly, Arkansas Women's Training Project) (related to MSW coursework).</p>

1979-1981

PARALEGAL

Central Arkansas Legal Services, Little Rock, Arkansas

Assisted battered women with family law cases.

1978-79

CRISIS PHONE COUNSELOR/DEVELOPMENT TRAINER

Crisis Center of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas

Provided crisis phone counseling and referral for callers; worked with community groups around the state to develop crisis center hotlines.

1978

ADVOCATE FOR BATTERED WOMEN (BSW practicum)

Advocates for Battered Women, Little Rock, Arkansas

Managed day-to-day operation of start-up shelter; coordinated volunteer services; provided support counseling and direct assistance to battered women.